



THE RESPONDER

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE • JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER
OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM • SEPTEMBER 2011



Land Office Staffers Attend the IOSC

The Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program recently sent three representatives to the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) in Portland, Oregon. Those present were Deputy Commissioner Greg Pollock, State Scientific Support Coordinator Dr. Buzz Martin and Regional Manager Michael Baccigalopi, who also represented Regional Response Team 6 (RRT-6).

The Land Office gave one paper presentation and entered three posters, with Martin winning an honorable mention in the preparedness category for his poster entitled "Growing a Regional Planning and Response Toolkit." Martin's poster emphasized the advantages of annual updates to Area Contingency Plans (ACP), the cooperative effort between U.S. Coast Guard District 8 (USCG D8) and the Land Office in maintaining the Texas Coastal Oil Spill Planning and Response Toolkit, and the manner in which the Toolkit encourages the use of the ACP and Geographic Response Plans in developing an Incident Action Plan. His co-authors for the poster were Charlie Henry of NOAA; Mary Gill, formerly with NOAA; William Goetzee of USCG D8 and Blanche Salinas of the Land Office. A copy of the poster can be found at <http://www.texasoilspilltoolkit.org/> in the Resources section.

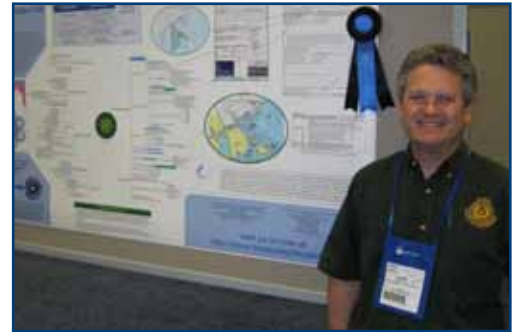
Other posters included "It's More Than Just a Spill," co-authored by Advanced Response Officer Maren Harding, USCG Lt. Joe Leonard, Royston Rayzor attorney Pat Cooney, and T&T Bisso's Tim Dickensheets. They focused on response activities during the Motor Vessel *Eagle Otome* spill in Port Arthur and talked about environmental stewardship, resource management, waterways man-

agement, and legal issues. A poster entitled "Hurricane and Flood Preparedness for Above Ground Storage Tanks" was authored by Michael Baccigalopi as a representative of the RRT-6. Information

regarding this poster was published in the June edition of "The Responder," and the EPA used these recommended best practices for all facilities in the forecasted impact area during the recent Mississippi River floods.

The Land Office paper presentation was given by Michael Baccigalopi and was entitled "Fishing Communities Assisting in a Response: MC252 Vessel of Opportunity—The Mobile Model." It was co-authored by Dave Jensen, a spill response consultant, and focused on how vessels of opportunity were utilized in Mobile, where they fit into the ICS structure, and where do we go in the future.

"The GLO has been actively participating in the IOSC since 1991 when the program was founded," Pollock said. "Our tradition of participation continues as evidenced by the acceptance of three posters and a paper presentation."



Dr. Buzz Martin poses with his award-winning poster at the IOSC poster session.

Partnership Receives Recognition

The Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program has partnered for 13 years with the Matagorda County Navigation District #1 (MCND #1) through the Bilge Water Reclamation Program. The partnership must be doing something right or it wouldn't have won the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) prestigious Gulf Guardian Award, which was presented in New Orleans during the EPA's annual five-state Gulf Alliance meeting in August.

The EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program developed the awards in 2000 as a way to recognize and honor public and private groups that work to keep the Gulf and adjacent water bodies healthy.

The Bilge Water Reclamation Program was started by the Land Office in 1995 to encourage commercial fishing vessels to pump their bilges and discard used motor oil at a collection facility instead of the closest body of water. There are currently eight permanent bilge water reclamation facilities, five skid-mounted bilge oil/used

oil units, and two used oil collection facilities located along the Texas coast from Brownsville to Freeport. Over 1.8 million gallons of bilge water and 1.7 million gallons of used oil had been recovered through August 2010, with over 1.2 million gallons collected from the MCND #1 facility.

These partnerships are a huge success. Our hats are off to the entities who participate in the program, the individuals who use the facilities instead of our bays, and the other individuals who have made this program a success.



A fishing vessel pump-out at the MCND #1 facility in Palacios.

EDUCATE ♦ PREVENT ♦ RESPOND

Shrimp Boats Burn in Kemah

At 3:26 a.m. on June 12th, the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program received notification of shrimp boats on fire at the Kemah Shrimp Company dock. The Kemah Fire Department, Seabrook Fire Department and Kemah Police Department initially responded to the incident and were joined by the Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and U.S. Coast Guard. Three shrimp boats were found to be on fire, one of which sank at the dock after the fire was extinguished.

The sunken shrimp boat—fishing vessel *Capt. Chong*—discharged approximately 257 gallons of a mixture of diesel fuel and lube oil into the waters of Clear Creek Channel. The firemen deployed containment boom, which was given to the Kemah Fire Department by the Land Office, around the affected vessels to contain the spill. Thanks to the quick response by the firemen, the impact of the spill on the environment was minimal. The USCG federalized the spill and hired Garner Environmental Services for cleanup.



USCG representatives look over charred remains of two fishing vessels.

Helping Educate Local Educators



Assistant Regional Director Ross Penton takes local teachers on an airboat ride to show them environmentally sensitive areas.

For 16 years, the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program has been partnering with different groups along the coast to broaden the knowledge base of local educators. Teaching Environmental Science, or Teach the Teachers, is a program designed to help teachers in the K-12 setting who want to learn new ways to integrate environmental issues into their curriculums. The purpose of the course is to increase the teacher's understanding of environmental concepts and promote partnerships among teachers, government agencies, and community organizations. The summer program provides teachers with an opportunity to spend a week with different organizations focusing on their respective missions.

The Teaching Environmental Science group has been in place in Port Arthur for 16 years. The partnership between Lamar University, the Land Office, and various local and private industry partners has introduced current and future teachers to different aspects of environmental compliance and stewardship. The two-week program allows each involved partner to have one day with the teachers. Examples of activities, which change annually depending on partner organizations, include environmental procedures within plants, local restoration projects, and equipment demonstrations. Oil spill activities include boat rides, displaying response equipment, old spill site visits, and a general program overview.

For the ninth year in a row members from the Land Office's South Texas Coastal Zone (STCZ) have participated in the event. The program began in a classroom-like setting where Assistant

Regional Director Jay Veselka gave a brief presentation on the Oil Spill Program. Then the teachers were taken to the environmentally sensitive Lighthouse Lakes Preserve of Redfish Bay. Lighthouse Lakes is named after the historic Lydia Ann Lighthouse built in the 1850s. The 14,000 acres of pristine habitat is leased to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) by the Land Office to promote conservation and public awareness. The Land Office and TPWD have been authorized by the state to develop a wetlands conservation plan. The organizations work together to monitor boat traffic, water quality, dredging activities, and pollution throughout the preserve. Outboard motors are not allowed in the preserve due to sensitive sea grasses, so kayaks are a popular way to reach fishing and birding destinations. The first kayak trails in the state were established at the Lighthouse Lakes.

Teachers were given an airboat tour through the mangrove-lined trails and Response Officer Steve Buschang made several stops to educate the teachers about the pristine habitat. The teachers were then given a private tour by Lighthouse Keeper Rick Reichenbach, who spoke about facts, myths, and legends of the lighthouse's storied past.

The Land Office field trip is saved for one of the last days of the program, as it's always a highlight of the course. Year after year, the teachers claim spending the day with the Land Office is the best part of the week-long experience.



This shot from the Aransas Pass lighthouse shows the fleet of GLO boats used during the annual Teach the Teacher event.

Quick Response Helps Save Vessels

On July 12th at 12:33 a.m. the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program received a call about a boat fire at South Shore Harbor Marina in League City. When Response Officer Maren Harding arrived at the marina, the fire had been extinguished and the smoldering hulls of three vessels and multiple piers remained. Multiple fire departments were at the scene, including League City, Kemah and Nassau Bay, as well as the League City Police Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, and South Shore Harbor personnel.

As soon as fire department personnel arrived they cut mooring lines to vessels on either side of the fire to prevent it from spreading. This action saved two vessels from major damage and possibly the entire marina.

Two of the three vessels involved in the fire sank overnight, however, due to the intensity of the fire there was no release of oil into the marina. By July 13th the vessels had been salvaged by Pecos Marine and the piers were immediately rebuilt. Thanks go out to all involved for a quick response and rapid mitigation of a potentially devastating situation.



Little remains of two vessels following a fire.

Reaching Students Through the JASON Project



Senior Response Officer Johnny Darcey talks to local students about spill containment boom.

For the past 11 years the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program has been involved with a nationwide movement to teach middle school students about the environment. The JASON Project was started in 1989 by famed oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard, and has reached over 12 mil-

lion students and teachers through print curriculum, broadcasts, and Internet projects. JASON is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Geographic Society that develops core curriculum units each year around environmental topics such as: Mysteries of Earth and Mars, Disappearing Wetlands, Rainforests at the Crossroads, Frozen Worlds, Oceans of Earth and Beyond, Adapting to a Changing Sea, and Island Earth.

The Land Office has been involved in the Tri-Cities area through participation in a week-long conference for JASON students. For a week each year, participating students get together for teleconferences and presentations that focus specifically on the curriculum for that year. Oil Spill personnel give 30-minute presentations on the short- and long-term effects oil spills have on the environment and tie all aspects of oil production, refining, and shipping to the current curriculum topic.

This past year, 11 school districts in the Tri-Cities area participated in JASON and the conference, with 9,000 students attending. Many local, state, and federal agencies as well as private and non-profit groups contribute to this successful event.

1-800 Sign Project

The Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program has taken an active stand on preventing spills and educating the boating community. Land Office Response Officers Gonzalo Pena and Mike Janskowski recently installed notification signs at four frequently used boat ramps. This initiative was started over 10 years ago, but the initial signs deteriorated and have now been upgraded with a bigger and sturdier design. The locations at Isla Blanca, SouthPoint Marina, Sea Ranch, and Hwy. 48 boat ramps are now equipped with signs alerting the public about boating oil spills and a 1-800 number should a spill occur. Measures to prevent oil spills include plugging scupper openings, keeping bilges clean and dry, and not topping off tanks when fueling. Spills of any amount should be reported at 1-800-832-8224, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Qualified Response Officer Pena poses by one of the new signs.

Thousands Flock to Texas Coastal Expo in Galveston

Hot, sultry weather and intermittent gusts of wind couldn't stop an outburst of fun at the 2011 Texas Coastal Expo, held at Galveston's Moody Gardens on June 18. The Land Office had multiple exhibits about its various coastal-related programs, including the Adopt-A-Beach, Oil Spill Prevention and Response, and Beach Watch programs, as well as its Renewable Energy and Coastal Resources divisions.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said the goal of the event is improving public knowledge of the Gulf shoreline. "The more Texans know about the coast, the more they'll help to protect it," he said.

The free, family-friendly event is held at a different place each year on the Texas coast. Organized and run by the Land Office, it's



Senior Response Officer II Trang Vu demonstrates how a skimmer works.



Mesmerized by a rattlesnake.

the biggest coastal expo in Texas. Exhibits by nonprofits and both the private and public sectors demonstrated coastal conservation and wildlife preservation efforts, among other things. There were treasure hunts, face painting, two inflatable moonwalks, "fish printing" and a sand box for the kids, along with Texas shrimp-cooking demonstrations and lots of free goodies and giveaways. A surfing simulator—similar in concept to mechanical bull riding—was a big hit with both children and adults.

A U.S. Coast Guard Response Boat—designed for port security, search and rescue and law enforcement duties—was open to the public and Coast Guard members were on hand to describe its capabilities, while the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department held an exhibit on the impact of poaching in Texas.

Not to be outdone, Land Office staffers from the Oil Spill Program brought an oiled wildlife response trailer and airboat. A major draw at the Coastal Expo was the Oil Spill prize wheel. Despite the heat, the booth had a steady stream of visitors eager to find out more about the program and try their hand at winning a variety of prizes.

Texas Coastal Expo was sponsored by America's Wetlands, Coastal Conservation Association Texas, Crowder Gulf, The Shaw Group, Apollo Environmental, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and HNTB.

Eagle Ford Shale

The Eagle Ford Shale (EFS) is a significant formation containing vast amounts of both natural gas and oil. It encompasses an area roughly 50 miles wide and 400 miles long, cutting across Texas from the Mexican border into East Texas. Up to 70 percent carbonate shale, the EFS is thought to be one of the most significant United States oil discoveries in the past 40 years. Production of crude oil from this field has increased from 71,000 barrels per day (bpd) to around 160,000 bpd. This significant find has proven to be a boon to the petroleum industry as well as an increasing concern of many environmental organizations.

The EFS has led to the re-opening or new construction of loading facilities, terminals, and refining units. As the amount of petroleum production increases, a shortage in pipeline capacity has occurred, leading to older pipelines being re-opened and new ones being constructed. However, because of the time it takes to build a pipeline and the need to move petroleum product quickly, there has been a significant increase in trucking activity, as well as the development of storage facilities near the coast. Barge traffic has increased as well, and will continue to do so as more petroleum is transported via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW).

Within the boundaries of the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program Region 5 office, there has been interest from ten different entities regarding certification of new facilities handling EFS product. Two have become certified oil handling facilities, with two others actively in the certification process. With these four facilities alone, the amount of petroleum product

moving through Region 5 has increased by approximately 200,000 barrels per week.

This amount is expected to increase as the newly certified facilities reach an estimated full capacity of over 400,000 barrels. Based on facility information, every 24 hours sees about 165 tank trucks bringing petroleum product to facilities in the Land Office's Region 5 area. In addition, a new pipeline is being constructed to bring 130,000 bpd of petroleum product from Winkler County to a processing plant in Jackson County.

As the amount of petroleum product increases, so do environmental concerns. With a limited number of access roads available to these new water-based facilities, the increased truck traffic brings a unique set of concerns with multiple waterway crossings, and unloading near coastal waters. All the new EFS-related facilities will send their product to refiners via the ICWW, which will increase barge traffic along the Victoria Barge Canal and the ICWW. Due to these activities the Oil Spill office in Region 5 will increase the number of its boat and vehicle patrols.

The EFS has had a positive impact on the economy of the counties contained within Region 5 as well as increasing environmental awareness. While the need to quickly complete and bring online both new and old facilities and pipelines is understood, it's imperative that the highest standards of compliance be adhered to. The Land Office looks forward to working with these new facilities to ensure that all aspects of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act are met, while helping the industry move forward.

Two Long-Time GLO Employees Retire



Deputy Commissioner Greg Pollock, Blanche Salinas and Region 3 Director Jimmy Martinez.

After 19 years of service with the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program, Blanche Salinas is calling it quits. Blanche arrived at the Corpus Christi Field Office in 1992 after working more

than 11 years as an Administrative Assistant for the Railroad Commission of Texas. She has served under five Regional Directors as a Program Specialist and survived three office location changes. “Blanche has been a reliable, hard-working, dedicated, and versatile employee,” said South Texas Coastal Zone Regional Director Jimmy Martinez. “Whenever anything was needed, Blanche welcomed the challenge.”

Aside from handling administrative duties, Blanche served as Inventory Control Person, Compliance Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and the regional Derelict Vessel and Structure Program Coordinator. She also managed purchasing invoices and receiving reports and assisted with updates to the GLO Oil Spill Planning & Response Toolkit. During numerous oil spill events, Blanche worked in the Documentation Unit due to her strong organizational skills. “Her professionalism, computer savvy, and ability to multi-task will be missed on both a professional and personal level,” Martinez said. “Her shoes will be hard to fill. Blanche has been an integral part of building the Oil Spill Program into what it is today.”

One of Blanche’s “fondest” memories was Black October, when both the Gum Hollow Spill in the Corpus Christi area and the San Jacinto River Spill occurred in 1994. She worked both spills, including two weeks on the graveyard shift at the San Jacinto River Spill.

Blanche also recalls going on an overflight during a dispersant drill. While in the air, the plane developed engine problems. While the cussing pilots were requesting an emergency landing, a fellow Land Office employee started praying as smoke poured out from behind the seats. Fortunately, they were able to land without any injuries.

Bob Caraway, Senior Response Officer II in Region 2, will retire after 19 years of service with the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program. Bob has given selflessly as a guardian of our natural resources. He has maintained the honor and integrity of the agency’s vision while still being open to innova-

tive changes as the program has evolved. With his positive and enthusiastic attitude and diligent approach to work, Bob has greatly enhanced the image and productivity of this program—a role that many will strive to emulate in the future.

During his time here, Bob has responded to many spill events and imparted his vast knowledge to all the personnel at the La Porte field office and beyond. Bob Caraway has left an indelible mark on spill prevention and response, and the lives of those he served with. His daily presence will be greatly missed.



Bob Caraway.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

2011 Toolkit

will be released at Clean Gulf. Make sure to stop by the Land Office Oil Spill booth to get the updates.

Regional Response Team 6

meets semi-annually in late spring and late fall.

Visit www.nrt.org for more information.

SE Texas/SW Louisiana Coastal Area Committee

typically meets quarterly to discuss regional planning updates. For information on upcoming meetings contact the Land Office’s Port Arthur Field Office.

Central Texas Coastal Area Committee

meets quarterly to discuss regional planning updates. Meetings typically occur in March, June, September, and December. Meeting times and locations vary. For information on upcoming meetings contact the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Planning Section Chief, or the Land Office’s La Porte Field Office.

South Texas Coastal Zone Area Committee

meets quarterly to discuss regional planning issues. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 12 at 1300 in the Port of Brownsville Fire Department Training Room. Please contact USCG Sector Corpus Christi Incident Management Division Chief at 361-888-3162 x. 302 or the Land Office’s Corpus Christi Field Office at 361-825-3300 for more information.

Bay Day Brings Agencies Together

On May 20th, Administrative Assistant Stacey Uptegrove, Qualified Response Officer Bob Brock, and Advanced Response Officer Gray Powell from the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program participated in the annual K.E. Little Elementary – Galveston Bay Day celebration. This event educates fourth-grade students about the Oil Spill program and answers questions they might have regarding oil spills.

This was the eighth year the Land Office was a part of Bay Day, and the staff always looks forward to this outreach event. After a short PowerPoint presentation, the students got busy with hands-on activities, such as using a mini to see how spilled oil is collected. Staff members also demonstrated the use of boom to protect wildlife and the beach.

Other than learning about oil spills, students also heard presentations from the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, Galveston Bay Foundation and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on various environmental topics.



Qualified Response Officer Bob Brock talks to students about how oil spill containment boom works.

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La Porte

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La Porte, Texas
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281-470-6597

Corpus Christi

6300 Ocean Drive, Ste. 2425
Corpus Christi, Texas
78412-5599
361-825-3300

Brownsville

2145 EMS Lane
Brownsville, Texas
78521-2666
956-504-1417

Port Lavaca

414 Travis Street
Port Lavaca, Texas
77979-2351
361-552-8081

Report oil spills
1-800-832-8224
24 hours

The Responder is published by the Texas General Land Office. Questions and comments may be submitted to Maren Harding via email at maren.harding@glo.texas.gov or by phone at 281-470-6597.

Vessel Registration Requirements

Owners or operators of certain vessels operating in Texas coastal waters must submit vessel-specific information to the Texas General Land Office. The required information includes 24-hour contact information, vessel identification, gross tonnage, and capacity for fuel and oil for each vessel covered by the notification. Vessels operating in Texas coastal waters are still being found not to have submitted any of the information to the Land Office.

If you are uncertain if this rule applies to your company, you merely need to answer the following questions:

- ◆ Is your company the owner or operator of a vessel required by the Oil Pollution Act to have a current vessel response plan aboard?
- ◆ Is your company the owner or operator of a vessel in excess of 400 gross tons and required by the International Maritime Organization to have a current shipboard oil pollution emergency plan aboard?

If you answered "yes" to either of these, then the rule definitely applies to your company, assuming your vessel(s) operates in Texas coastal waters. The simplest way to meet the requirements is to submit the information and maintain it through our website at www.glo.texas.gov. To establish a company account and obtain a password, please contact Peggy Spies, Director of Maritime Affairs at peggy.spies@glo.texas.gov or by phone at 512-463-6554.

The Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act allows a civil penalty of not less than \$100 and no more than \$10,000 per violation for each day of violation, not to exceed \$125,000. Vessel owners and operators are encouraged to review the registration and notification requirements to ensure they're in compliance. This year, the Land Office will use PortVision, a Web-based system for monitoring real-time vessel activity along Texas coastal waters to assist in determining commercial vessel compliance. Non-compliance could prompt a visit by Land Office personnel.

21ST ANNUAL



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STATE OF TEXAS
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STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Environmental Management



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Department of
Environmental Quality



Bureau of Ocean Energy
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UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD

As Deputy Commissioner of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program at the Texas General Land Office, and the 2011 Conference Chair, I would like to extend a warm invitation for you to join us in beautiful San Antonio for CLEAN GULF 2011.

The theme for this year's event is "Looking Ahead to a Brighter Future," which reflects the challenges that face the many industry sectors and governmental agencies that work together to protect our environment. Times are indeed changing, and the CLEAN GULF conference contains timely updates and discussions on the latest developments in regulatory and operational issues.

Once again, topical and enlightening half-day pre-conference sessions have been programmed, in addition to a Mega Session on the future of the industry.

This is the 21st year for CLEAN GULF and we are very excited about returning to Texas and visiting San Antonio - one of the finest conference locations in the United States. The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center is located right on the famous Riverwalk and close to shops, restaurants, the Rivercenter Mall and most importantly, the Alamo! So, when you're not perusing the show floor or busy networking at the conference, they'll be plenty to see and do.

This year's event guarantees to be a success and I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio on November 30th- December 1st.



Greg Pollock
2011 Conference Chairman